



A massive St John's 'well done' to all our Silverdale Stars this week.

Curlews – Bertie

For your fantastic knowledge about nature. You are an amazing scientist! Well done Bertie!

Bitterns – Charlie L

For being so diligent, confident and a wonderful member of our school

Harriers – Eddie

For having lovely manners. Eddie is always kind to others, appreciates the things we do and never forgets to say thank you!

 <p>Sebastian Glenister</p>	 <p>Abigail Whitfield</p>	 <p>Alfie Park</p>	<p>Mathletics</p> <p>Well done to Seb, Abigail and Alfie for getting their first 'firsts'.</p>
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SATS

Year 6 were amazing this week. They endured and persevered in what can be a stressful situation. All the children tried their best and will always make us proud no matter the outcomes.

LRGS

Lancaster Royal Grammar School is opening the doors to prospective families interested in applying for a place in September 2027. Families are welcome to attend the [Open Day on Saturday 20 June from 9am-1pm.](#)

Key dates:

- 20/06/26 LRGS Open Day
 - 07/09/26 Closing date for applications to LRGS for 11+ entrance test.
 - 26/09/26 11+ entrance test at LRGS.
 - 06/10/26 Results sent to parents.
 - 30/10/26 Closing date for parents to apply for a place via the LEA.
 - 01/03/27 LEA results sent to parents.
- [Applications are now being accepted via the LRGS website.](#)

Friday Thought

Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
—Proverbs 31:30

Church News

09:00 on Sundays - an informal gathering to sing songs and talk about the Bible readings for the day in the Parish Room.

10.30 - a service with hymns, Bible readings, prayers and Holy Communion alternate weeks (1st & 3rd). All welcome any time.

Field Day

Field day is on **Sat 20th June 2026**. The committee need all trophies back from last year asap. If you have or know anyone that has a trophy, please can you drop it in at school. School will also be having a little stall. We need ideas for this! Children will be selling loom bands and selling crafts made by our after school club.

Lunchtime Legends

Our 'Lunchtime Legends' this week are...
Year 6, Axel, Noah, Baine, Reuben.
Super children doing super stuff at lunchtime!

Transition Days

- QES** - New intake evening 18:00 24.06.26
Induction day 07.07.26
- Dallam** - New Intake Evening 29.06.26
Induction Day 30.06.25

Class Blog

It's Curlews' class this week! Please [click](#) on the link to gain an insight into what the children have been learning in class.

Toys

If children need fidget toys, we are very happy to provide them, provided we have evidence that they need them. We are seeing an increasing amount of toys coming into school. They are not only a distraction to self and others, but they get lost. Please discourage children from bringing in items from home.



Newsletter – WC 11th May 2026

Inspiring success through learning, community and faith.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

- Philippians 4:13

The words of Jesus: Our Christian Value this week is Forgiveness

PTA Events

Helpers needed at the arts trail cafe!

Please can you spare two hours on June 27th or 28th? Duties include washing & drying up, serving and clearing tables.

Please sign up

at <https://tinyurl.com/PTAARTSCAFE>

We need at least six adults and five children per session.

Attendance

Well done to Harriers and Bitterns

Harriers 98.15 %

Bitterns 98.15 %

Curlews 95.0%

AVERAGE SCHOOL 97.1 %

Field day

If anyone can help with a small stall at the field day event on June 20th, we would very much appreciate it. We usually have lucky dip and shuttle board.

Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader is making positive progress across school. Children are engaging enthusiastically with reading, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence and enjoyment grow. Staff have worked hard to embed the programme consistently, ensuring that pupils are reading books matched carefully to their reading level and completing quizzes regularly to check understanding. This has helped children to develop both fluency and comprehension, while also encouraging greater independence in their reading choices. Thank you to families for your continued support with reading at home. Working together is making a real difference in helping our children become confident, successful readers. We will be choosing some raffle winners next Friday. Who will win a book token to spend over the holidays?

Lunches

Week 2 WC 18.05.26

It's dinosaur menu next Thursday!

Next Week...

18.05.26 – English Learning Walk

18.05.26 – Students start

18.05.26 – Miss S visit Towerwood

18.5.26 – EHCP officer to see Miss S

19.05.26 – Mrs A Evolve training

19.05.26 – Mrs T visiting local school

21.05.26 – School Council at Bleasdale

22.05.26 – Feel Good Friday

22.05.26 – Annual Review

the online calendar for future events

Enrichment Clubs

Tuesday - School Magazine (All Welcome)

Wednesday – Eco Club

Thursday – Cricket (Key Stage 2)

Friday – Friday Football (all welcome)

Mrs Taylor will send letters home next week

Assessments

Y1 phonics: every Y1 child will take a phonics assessment in the week beginning 8th June.

This is a 1:1 verbal assessment of their phonics knowledge where they try to read 40 words, both normal and nonsense words. This will be administered by Miss Sanderson

Multiplication tables check: All Y4 children sit an online tables test in the week beginning 15th June. This tests their knowledge of times tables up to 12x12 and they have 6s to answer each question.

Y2 assessments: although we no longer have to statutorily report results of our Y2 assessments, the children will sit internal assessments along with Y3,4,5 in the week beginning 15th June. **EYFS:** children will be assessed on the areas of learning in the EYFS curriculum. This is teacher assessment and no test is taken.

Feel Good Friday

We are having 'Feel Good Friday' in school next week (22nd May). The children can come into school in their own clothes and take part in lots of lovely activities. There will be no cost for this. We would also like to invite parents into school on Friday afternoon from 14:00 until the end of the day. There will be tea and coffee in the hall. A little visual presentation to watch and a lot of fun with our awesome children.

21st May Dinosaur Day

Brontosaurus Burger
Crispy Chicken or Vegetarian Burger
In a Bun

or
T-Rexadillas
Loaded Vegetable & Cheese Quesadilla
All served with

Fossil Fries
Crinkle Cut Crispy Potatoes

&
Herbivore Platter & Swamp Dips
Vegetable Sticks
with
Chilli Mayo & BBQ Sauce

or
Jurassic Jackets

Jacket Potato with a choice of filling
&
Salad Selection

Swamp Mud Cake
Chocolate Brownie Traybake

or
Volcanic Lava Delight
Jelly & Ice Cream
with
Strawberry Sauce



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CATERING SERVICE

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Dinosaur Day

Thursday 21st May 2026

We will be having a special Dinosaur Day Lunch on Thursday 21st May. If your child would like a school lunch on this day please complete the form and return it to school or email your choice as soon as possible. **Sorry for the short notice.**

This menu will be the only choice of meal served that day.

The cost is £2.80 per child (Free for KS1 children)

Chicken or

Vegetarian Burger

Or

Loaded veg & cheese Quesadilla

Or

Jacket Potato

Followed by

Chocolate Brownie

Or

Jelly and Ice Cream

Name

Class

We look forward to serving your child.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE GROOMING

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a child or young person online to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, or criminal activity – such as county lines or financial scams. According to the NSPCC, police in the UK recorded over 7,000 offences involving sexual communication with a child in a single year – an increase of 89% since 2017/18.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STRANGERS USING FAKE IDENTITIES

Groomers often pose as children or teenagers online to build trust. They may create convincing fake profiles, share photos stolen from real people, or mimic the interests of the child. By pretending to be someone their age, they make conversations feel safe and reliable. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, exposing children to significant emotional and physical harm.

EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY

To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or money. Alongside material offerings, they use excessive compliments, affection, and attention to create emotional dependency. These tactics make children feel valued and special, lowering their defences. Once trust is secured, groomers may escalate their requests, often asking for photos or private conversations, making the child feel pressured or indebted to continue.

GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS

Unmonitored group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide a cover for groomers. They can watch how children interact, identify those who seem vulnerable, and then move conversations into private messaging. This transition makes detection difficult for trusted adults. The seemingly harmless group setting often masks the presence of predators, giving children a false sense of security.

THE RISE OF SEXTORTION

Sextortion involves pressuring children into sharing explicit content, then blackmailing them for more. Offenders may claim to have hacked a child's device, threaten to share images with friends or family, or demand money. Many victims remain silent out of fear and shame. This growing crime is particularly dangerous because children often feel trapped, believing there's no safe way to escape the situation.

GAMING PLATFORMS AS GROOMING GATEWAYS

Games like Roblox, Fortnite, or Call of Duty, which include live chat features, are frequent targets for groomers. Conversations often begin casually during gameplay and can become manipulative over time. Groomers may offer in-game gifts, credits, or exclusive add-ons to build rapport. Children using headsets or private chat features are especially at risk, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

CRIMINAL & RADICALISATION RISKS

Grooming is not always sexual. Some offenders manipulate children into criminal activities such as drug running or online fraud. Others attempt to radicalise young people with extreme ideologies. Groomers often use fear, money, shame, or promises of belonging to control their victims. These forms of exploitation can be just as harmful as sexual grooming, and often leave lasting psychological and social consequences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS REGULAR

Rather than having one "big talk" about online safety, weave conversations into everyday life. Ask questions about children's online friendships and interests. Share real-life examples to make discussions relatable and encourage honesty instead of secrecy. When children feel comfortable discussing their digital lives, they are far more likely to share concerns or admit when something feels wrong, reducing the chance of risky interactions going unnoticed.

UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE

Take time to learn about the apps, games, and social platforms children are on. Familiarise yourself with privacy settings, parental controls, and group chat features. Use resources like The National College guides or conduct quick searches to stay updated. By understanding how these platforms operate, you'll be better equipped to set boundaries, guide safe use, and notice any unusual or concerning online behaviour early.

CREATE A "TELL ME" CULTURE

Children often keep silent because they fear being punished or losing access to their devices. Reassure them that coming forward with concerns won't get them into trouble. Emphasise that you are there to help, not judge. Creating a safe, open environment encourages children to speak up if something feels wrong, and helps to ensure they don't suffer in silence when facing potential grooming risks.

STAY ALERT TO WARNING SIGNS

Be attentive to both behavioural and digital red flags. Sudden secrecy, mood swings, or new online contacts may signal a problem. Watch for unexplained gifts, new social media profiles, or changes in sleep patterns. Increased anxiety or reluctance to attend school can also be indicators. Regularly checking in and showing interest in those whom they communicate with online help prevent small issues from escalating into serious risks.

Meet Our Expert

Staffordshire Police is dedicated to keeping people safe and tackling crime across both the physical and digital world. The force continues to strengthen its digital investigation and safeguarding capabilities to protect children and vulnerable people online, working in partnership with local, regional and national organisations, schools, and the wider community.



The National College®

See full reference list on our website

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Silverdale Village Fun and Field Day



**Saturday
20th June
2026**

Silverdale Village Institute, Spring Bank

A wonderful day for all the family – young and old. Let's make this a day to remember.

There will be a fancy-dress competition, a parade through the village, lots of stalls, a fully stocked bar, food vans (doughnuts, pizza), tea/coffee and cakes, children's races with cash prizes, medals and trophies, the iconic adult fell race to the Pepper Pot, the famous tug of war and live music.

Key timings for the day (approximate)

11.45am

Fancy dress entries - individual, groups (large and small), adults and children, arrive at Silverdale St Johns Primary school for judging at **12pm**.

1pm

The parade leaves the school for the Institute field traveling down Emesgate Lane, along Stankelt Road and then down Spring bank. Walking fancy dress entries will be at the front of the parade followed by the floats and vehicles. If you're not in the parade, then please line the streets and give everyone a wave and a cheer.

2pm onwards

Fun on the field – races, competitions, stalls, bar, food, music

Transitions

The information contained within this newsletter can be adapted for use with environmental, emotional, development, tasks at any time regardless of any diagnosis.

Things to consider around Transitions

Not all children and young people find the move from one year to another difficult as they may be excited about trying new things, meeting new teachers and possibly learning a new subject. It's important to focus on the positives if your child or young person is worried about this step. It is also important to validate their worries as some children can find this difficult so listen to their concerns and help them find solutions. Ask for support from school if needed.

In school transitions from one year to another can be difficult for some children especially if moving to a new classroom or part of school. Speak to the class teacher in the summer term about any transition plans or questions you might have.

Young Minds have developed a resource to support children and young people to understand the transition in Primary school. youngminds.org.uk/professional/resources/supporting-school-transitions/

Schools will often have their own transition planning tools for children with additional needs, so please speak to them if you have any concerns as soon as possible.

Transition to High School Top Tips



- Try and ask the young person what they are worried and excited about. Use this as the basis for any support strategies. Don't assume they will have problems with certain aspects, they might have their own strategies already. When you see them at the end of the day, remember they might need a rest and some food before talking about school... Lots of children struggle with open ended questions

such as 'Did you have a good day'. So you could try to ask specific questions such as: Did anything funny happen at lunchtime? Tell me 1 thing that made you smile / happy today? What was your favourite part of the day? Did you meet anyone new? What was the hardest thing about today?

- Home-school communication - Is there a person the family can contact about any issues and what is the best way to get in touch? Please remember this is daunting for all parents of first-time year 7 starters. There may be a few hiccups to start with but hopefully your young person should settle in fairly quickly. If there are any major concerns, try to find a solution and contact the school where necessary. Please be patient and provide solutions if possible as you know your young person best, school will have strategies ready to go but it's important that young people are given the opportunity to try for themselves first to build their confidence, self-esteem and independent skills.



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- New uniform – Check the school policy and don't leave it too late to buy what you need. School shoes are an issue for some, buy early if possible so they have time to try them on and get used to them. LABEL EVERYTHING! AND show them where their name is on their clothes so they can check it's theirs. I guarantee they will lose at least one thing including coat, calculator, drinks bottle & PE socks! Asda (George Online) do some great sensory friendly pieces of uniform as do M&S

- Do they take a mobile phone? There are lots of apps you can install to track their journey, with their consent, if you need that extra reassurance they have made it to school or have set off home. Mobile phone rules – Schools have different policies around phones in school, please make sure to check these out before they start.



- Forgotten items - What to do if they forget their PE kit, pencil case, lunch. Who can they ask for help? Lost items - What to do if they leave their PE kit, coat, lunch box etc. and can't find it. Does it get taken to a specific area? If so, where and how do they access it? Make an easy to read list of what ifs and put it in their pocket / pencil case / phone case. Keep copies as they may lose those too!

- Homework – expectations and explanations. Consider if the young person will need help recording homework details in their planner. Asking the teacher or Learning Support Assistant/Teaching Assistant to check they have the right info recorded saves a lot of stress and worry. Does the school offer homework support sessions? Some young people have a mental barrier with completing homework at home. Can they access the library after school or have access to support during the week to help with homework issues?



Carol Gray- Social Stories

Carol is best known for the development of Social Stories, a respected evidence-based practice used worldwide with people with autism of all ages. Carol is also known for initiating a very effective social philosophy that 1) 'abandons all assumptions', 2) regards both the typical and autism perspective as 'equally valid', and 3) recognizes the 'social impairment in autism' as shared (noting the well-intentioned but nonetheless misguided mistakes of parents and professionals). She has completed ground breaking work on some of the toughest topics in autism by reviewing the research, developing new theories, and proposing practical instructional strategies, most notably Gray's Guide to Bullying (2004) and Gray's Guide to Loss, Learning, and Students with ASD (2003). <https://carolgraysocialstories.com>

Visual supports

Visual supports are a communication tool that can be used with autistic people. They can be used in most situations, are adaptable and portable. <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/communication/communication-tools/visual-supports>

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If you have a child with special educational needs or a disability and are looking for a school for them, you may find information from SENDIAS useful please visit their website for more details lancssendias.org.uk/information-and-advice/choosing-a-school/



YOU WOULDN'T LET THIS
HAPPEN TO YOUR PHONE

DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO
YOU EITHER.

SELF CARE IS A PRIORITY.
NOT A LUXURY.

As parent carers, we always prioritise the needs of our children. Their wants and needs come first, as they should. However, to maintain this level of support for our kids, it's important that our own wants and needs are also taken care of. If you can make time for yourself, you absolutely should and you should also NOT feel guilty for it. As the saying goes, you cannot pour from an empty cup. Your own mental and physical health can be impacted by the constant level of stress you experience when raising a child / children with additional needs. Everyone has different ways of keeping themselves going. Even planning something can give you a boost to keep you going until you can find the time. If you are lucky enough to have friends or family that have offered to help, take them up on it. It might not happen often but if they can give you a break now and again, it will help.

Suggestions include: wild swimming with a local group has become increasingly popular, going for walks, talking with friends, meeting other parent carers on virtual or in person groups, sleeping whilst the kids are being looked after / at school, doing

something creative like writing, arts and crafts, making clothes, decorating, or even going to work can be a way to make you feel like you again. This is not a complete list and you may find you already have your own strategies. Whatever it is, if it brings you joy, is healthy and makes you feel like you again, **don't feel guilty for making the time to do it! Your children will notice the difference in you too.**

If you feel you are struggling and need support for your own mental health, please speak to your GP. For urgent advice and support call 0800 953 0110

For a range of mental health support charities please go to <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/>

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